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expressed in the author's statement: "Sovereignty in the modern organization of the state is merely the focal point at which the energies of the nation converge." This suggestiveness is doubtless due in part to the modernity of the subject itself, but it is greatly enhanced by the illuminative mode of presenting the material and by the splendid but sane optimism of the author. It is almost needless to add that the book is written with that grace of form and clearness of expression which we have come to expect in all of Professor Reinsch's publications. It is sincerely to be hoped that the author will find time in the near future to follow up his introductory study by the production of a larger and more authoritative treatise covering the whole field of international unions and administrative law.

C. D. ALLIN.

English Political Institutions: An Introductory Study. By J. A. R. MARRIOTT, M. A., Lecturer and Tutor in Modern History and Political Science at Worcester College, Oxford. Clarendon Press, 1910. (Pp. viii, 347).

In writing this little book, the author's "primary object has been to set forth the actual working of the English Constitution of today, and to do so with constant reference to the past," in the hope that it may "provide an introduction to the history of English institutions, and also explain the contemporary working of the complicated constitutional machine." No originality is claimed for this study other than that of form and presentation. A considerable portion of the text consists of quotations from authoritative jurists, historians and publicists. Yet the book is neither a mere digest nor a patchwork, but a stimulating and serviceable guide. The reader is duly warned that this is "not even an instalment of the 'larger work' foreshadowed in the preface" of the author's recently published *Second Chambers*. It serves well the object of a "curtain-raiser" in securing attention because of its own merits and in arousing interest in what is to follow.

An introductory chapter, devoted to the classification of constitutions, is followed by a discussion of some salient points of the English Constitution—its flexibility, its continuity, its "legality" and its guarantees of personal liberty. Three chapters are given to the

Executive; nowhere else has the author better deserved his reader's gratitude than in his clear presentation of the inter-relations between the Crown, the Cabinet and the Privy Council, in regard to which the vagueness and "reticence" of English constitutional law is "at once the despair and the admiration of foreign publicists." Two chapters are given to the House of Lords, tracing its evolution, and discussing interestingly its judicial functions, its "referendal" and "ventilating" functions; and its service as "a reservoir of Cabinet Ministers." These pages form an enlightening preface to the new chapter in English constitutional history written by Parliament during the past summer, too recently to be summarized in this book. Four chapters set forth the history and workings of the House of Commons; urban and rural local government are each accorded a chapter, and one—by no means the clearest—is devoted to the judiciary.

"The State and the Empire" is the last topic discussed. In rapid outline are presented the steps by which England has come to rule "the greatest empire known to human history." After a brief but comprehensive survey of the government of the several dominions, colonies and dependencies, the author notes the facts that during the past forty years the "Imperial note has swelled louder and louder," but that there is "an entire lack of agreement as to the means by which sentiment should be translated into fact." "One prediction, however, may be hazarded,"—but this rash essay into the field of prophecy proves to be nothing more startling than that: "Things will not remain as they are." With the scientist's caution, the author is at great pains to avoid committing himself as to the probable outcome; nevertheless, he presents in attractive colors that "larger hope" of those who "look for the gradual evolution of some scheme of political and commercial federation."

GEORGE H. HAYNES.

The Presidential Campaign of 1860. By EMERSON DAVID FITE, Ph. D. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1911, Pp. xiii, 356.)

The body of this book consists of eight chapters entitled, John Brown, Helper's "Impending Crisis" and the Speakership Contest,